

NCLB Committee of Practitioners Meeting Minutes

Washington Elementary District Office
4650 W. Sweetwater
Glendale, AZ

September 10, 2010

COP Members: Sylvia A. Johnson, Co-Chair Harriet Caruso, Co-Chair Heidi Atkinson Leanne Bowley Debbie Burdick Karen Burns-Copley Angelina Canto Mary Lou Chambers Weatherly Geri Cloud Linda Denno Mona Doyle Shelly Duran Bob Fleischmann Cecilia Frakes David Gauch Susan Gibson Connie Heath Lidell Jacobson Scott Jacobson Stephanie Jones	Mary Kyle Ildi Laczko-Kerr Carrie Larson Jean Lewis Leticia Lujan Patricia Marsh Rebecca McClenning Patricia Osborne Chelsey Peitz Jacquelyn Power Doug Price Shelly Reed-Mezei Patrick Riley Eula Saxon Dean Dean Slaga Jeffrey Smith Gina Vukovich Tammi Wilson Charlotte Wing	ADE: Nancy Konitzer – Title I DAS Dr. Karen Butterfield, Assoc. Supt. Stephen Bonnet Terry Doolan Robert Franciosi Erik Francis Jim Lovett Mark McManus Barbara Nolan Sandra Skelton	Guests: Janet Sullivan
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Welcome and Introductions

The Committee of Practitioners (COP) was called to order at 9:00 am. COP Co-chair, Sylvia Johnson welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce themselves. Sylvia thanked Janet Sullivan for hosting the COP meeting at the Washington Elementary School District.

Business Items

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were reviewed and passed unanimously. Jacquelyn Power motioned to approve the minutes for May 7, 2010; it was seconded by Harriet Caruso.

Election of Co-chair:

Sylvia requested nominations to replace outgoing Co-chair Carrie Larson. Norma nominated Harriet Caruso, Mary Kyle second. Vote was carried unanimously in favor of Harriet Caruso as new Co-chair.

2011 COP meetings:

Members were asked to email Tee Lambert if their school district is able to host the COP meetings in 2011.

Neglected and Delinquent

Jim Lovett, Title I Program Specialist and Director of Neglected and Delinquent (N&D) Education provided an overview of N&D education. AZ Supreme Courts operate 15 Juvenile Corrections facilities and are working on being accredited. The Arizona Department of Corrections has a female minors unit in Perryville. Jim went and met with 15 ladies who were working on their education,

they're adding instruction in morning, afternoon and evening. Students within the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections receive Career & Technical Education (CTE) instruction and computer based instruction with the goal of leaving with a trade.

Jim also went over Title I-D sub parts I and II laws and guidelines and accountability. Both LEAs and state agencies provide child counts to the ED. LEAs work with NDTAC to get accurate child counts.

Distinguished Schools Applications

In the past COP has always helped with the process. This year there are no qualifying schools in Arizona that may apply for the national award. Nancy stated the results of the AIMS math test was part of the reason that schools did not qualify. The National Title I Association continues to request states to participate. Twenty states participated last year. A reminder of the minimum criteria: achievement in meeting AYP for two consecutive years, poverty rate of 35 percent or higher, minimum of 100 students tested, and AIMS scores above state averages, plus

- Category One: Absolute Achievement –positive improvement across the board
- Category Two: Subgroup Achievement - close the gap, positive growth

Ed Jobs Guidance

Nancy updated members on the EduJobs Bill. The bill was passed right before the summer break. There is an EduJobs Fact Sheet on the federal website. The Governor must make awards to the LEAs on a timely basis so that funds are available for use during the 2010-11 school year. Districts can pay for obligations beginning August 10, 2010 moving forward. The Governor's decision will be based on state aid formulas (similar to SFSF money). Applications from the state were due September 9, 2010. Application approval should be a quick turnaround of grant approval. Grants will be available through ADE Grants Management System.

Funding Criteria:

- School Level Personnel – early childhood, elementary, and secondary education. Has to be district employee staff – no outside contracted positions. May use the money for teachers, principals, academic coaches, plus service staff such as security officers, custodians, café workers and bus drivers.
- Not Allowable: District level positions, school board operations, human resources, etc.
- Intent is to spend the funding this year, but the way the law is written, carryover is allowed for an additional year.
- Two Percent Side Aside: Governor's Office.
- Using student count state aid formula to determine district amounts

Highly Qualified Professionals

Patty Hardy, Director of Teacher Quality and Recruitment and Retention was not able to attend the COP. Nancy Konitzer and COP members who attended the last meeting provided a brief overview. Nancy explained that the origin of moving to Highly Effective teachers is based in NCLB statute in terms of having highly qualified teachers available to all students, looking at their experience and effectiveness. Students in high poverty should have equitable access to highly qualified teachers.

There was a Teacher Equity Study, a two day workshop facilitated by WestEd, which involved an intensive look of data at AZ districts that had Title I and Non-Title I school. There were 25 districts involved in the Teacher Equity Study. This work has been recognized by nationally, Patty and Jan presented in Washington D.C.

Accountability Update

Robert Franciosi, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Research and Evaluation updated members on the issues dealing with School and LEA accountability:

- Will try to have AZ Learns data out a week early
- Writing: 5th, 6th, 7th and high school – holistic scores, no six traits
- Graduation Rate: Eighty (80) percent instead of 71 percent. Feds will revisit this again this year. New weighted graduation rate – 4 and 5 year. 60 percent x 4 year rate and 40 percent x 5 year rate. Information in Accountability Workbook.
- New Ethnicity Questions: The rules are that is a student reports as Hispanic, he/she will be reported in the Hispanic subgroup. For example, if a student choose 'Hispanic' and then chooses N/A. as race, the student will be reported as Hispanic.
- Three new Laws:
 - Teacher and Principal Evaluation: State Board Task Force
 - Superintendent Evaluation: State data used in superintendent compensation. No plan to put this out this fall. Data that law requires will not be published until the spring.
 - New Law: Five Provisions
 - AZLearns for LEAs will be required. AZLearns at District Level. Letter grade for districts.
 - Five Letter Grades: A, B, C, D, and F
 - Specific language defining A, B, C, D, and F schools. The laws states more specifics – some language that wasn't there in the past
 - Evaluation has to be more heavily weighted to student-level growth (Colorado model, etc.). 25 percent / growth of all students, 25 percent / growth of bottom 25 percent
 - Old model next two years (AZLearns); New model in FY 2013

Teacher & Principal Task Force

Nancy introduced Dr. Karen Butterfield, Associate Superintendent of Academic Achievement, who provided an update on the Teacher and Principal Task Force:

- The charge of the task force is to develop the framework to meet the essence of the law; they will not be developing the evaluation instrument.
- Evaluation component for teachers equals 33 – 50 percent based on student achievement. It is not determined how this will be measured yet.
- There will be an October meeting in Colorado, WestEd is organizing and presenting. Arizona Task Force members will also be attending.

Race to the Top

Karen provided an overview on the second round of Race to the Top (RttT) letting members know:

- Karen Butterfield, Eileen Klein, Vince Yanez, Jacob Moore, and Mike Cowen, Mesa Superintendent worked on the application presentation to ED, they had only had a week to work on it.
- WestEd helped with presentation; 30-minute presentation; with a 60-minute question and answer session. Arizona's application score increased by 20 points after the presentation.
- There wasn't enough money in the plan to distribute to all states. There may have been issues with the teacher union piece (not 100 percent of support from states like Arizona);
- There were no western states funded by RttT.
- The Race to the Top Application is posted on the Governor's website.

NCLB Updates

Nancy Konitzer provided updates concerning issues around NCLB.

NCLB funding allocations

- No new ARRA Title I money;
 - complete the completion report and then apply for carryover; treat the process like an amendment.

ALEAT

- Next update will include spell check feature; continuing to work with WestEd to improve functionality of ALEAT.
- ASIPs are now housed in ALEAT; ASIP has single goal: improving student achievement
- District Level LEA Plan: Goals currently have a status as 'in progress'. Change the goals and then submit. The LEA plan should match all federal applications. There is no hard deadline for LEA plan submission, but make sure the plan matches your application. If plan doesn't match Title I and Title II funding requests, applications will not be approved quickly.

School Improvement

- Persistently Low Achieving Schools (PLAs) are defined as the bottom five percent (Tier I).
- Feds are redirecting monies for school improvement – created a pool of funds to help the PLAs.
- Tier II included Title I Eligible Schools – number of Title I high schools nationwide are much less than elementary – Tier II is high schools – low graduation rate, eligible for Title I but do not receive the funding.
- School Improvement money was allocated to Tier I and Tier II schools. The schools are required to use one of the four models.

COP Topics

Members brought up issues to be discussed at future meetings.

- Rural schools have little resources for PD; they appreciate the Tech Regional Centers.
- Create an ad-hoc committee for teacher effectiveness and lowest performing schools. Research shows it's important to invest in bubble schools. Native American students are the lowest performing schools. Work hard with bubble students to help school make AYP. PLA model going to Tier I and II, but focus should be looked at with Tier III schools, especially rural area schools.
- Include COP in an ad hoc committee. Nancy said we have SIG (A) money or 4 % money to include that with SIG (G) money would be a possibility.
- Equitable distribution and teacher equity and clarification of differences.
- Need communication from assessment and accountability workgroups. Meetings are happening, but we don't always know when the meetings are. Better communication of meetings and times/locations of information.
- School grades A, B C. Is the criterion already set? Ad-hoc committee to help give input to the accountability workgroup. Welcome suggestions from the COP. Formalize some hot topics to keep members informed. Robert gives a one page summary instead of having labeling, AYP, common core, implementation, and assessment.
- Better communication on deadlines. Page on website for all deadlines and changes
- Discrepancy about what the ADE requires and District requires.
- NCLB reauthorization. Would our input matter? There is a .0099% chance that reauthorization will occur in a lame duck session, but both House and Senate are working

on pieces, but there's no coherent bill that would replace ESEA next year. Budget is also in limbo. They just keep funding it. We've been in extensions since October 1st.

- ALEAT – concerns of data and timely information about AYP.
- Committee members make suggestions for MEGA conference topics.
- Ways to use the money differently
- IDEAL could be an asset and need people on the IDEAL Task Force. Anyone interested, email Tee to serve on IDEAL task force; teacher and administrator equity issue.
- Time and effort: looking at what auditors and state look for is different.
- Double check that the ADE's expectations are in line with what auditors look for.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2010 - 2011

Sylvia Johnson asked that COP members email Tee Lambert if they are able to host the 2011 meetings.

November 18, 2010	MEGA Conference at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield (1/2 day)
January 21, 2011	TBA
March 4, 2011	TBA
May 6, 2011	TBA

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Harriet thanked everyone for their participation and effort with COP.

ADJOURN

Linda Denno motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lydell Jacobson. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.